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NSC BRIEFING

27 April 1955

SOUTH VIETNAM

- I. Tension remains high in Saigon as Diem moves to bring Binh Xuyen-controlled national police under his control.
 - A. Government strategy is to establish new headquarters under loyal chief and direct all policemen to report to him.
 - B. This procedure designed to avert charge that government going out of way to make trouble.
 1. Diem claims Bao Dai was given prior notification; merely advised Diem not to cause disorders.

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2. Immediate Binh Xuyen

response to Diem move
was nonviolent, limited
to appeal to Bao Dai and
simultaneous threat to
"go underground."

3. Currently, Bao Dai
threatening to "take
action" momentarily
regarding general
situation but sort of
action undefined, char-
acterized by spokesman
as "no more than minimum
necessary to avoid
immediate explosion."

C. Government reluctant to force
issue of physical control of old
police headquarters, which lo-
cated in heart of European

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utilities.

D. French believe move may not lead to trouble.

1. They will use "any influence they have" to persuade Binh Xuyen not to resort to arms.
2. Believe Binh Xuyen hopes Diem "fall like ripe fruit, without Binh Xuyen having to shake tree."
3. Existence some anti-Binh Xuyen feeling among police confirmed by US embassy security officer.

II. Government anticipates early rallying of a Viet Minh battalion left over in Camau area, with resultant psychological boost to progovernment cause.

A. Viet Minh battalion chief
claims 7,000 followers, but
government thinks more likely
figure is about 1,000.

III. Diem apparently has no intention of
relinquishing his premiership without
a fight.

A. Apparently going forward with
plans for an elected assembly.